CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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Ask 'Fair Break' for GB Films

SIR EDWARD VILLIERS
Representing Ealing Studios of Great Britain. He's in Canada checking on the distribution and exhibition situation.

Sir Edward Villiers, Ealing Films, Here to Check on Canadian Field

Expressing confidence in the entertainment value and general appeal of British films, Sir Edward Villiers told representatives of the daily and trade press who interviewed him in Toronto last week that Old Country product is showing marked improvement as a whole and "all we ask now is a fair break." He pointed out that a number of British films in the past had commanded tremendous attention from the public. The number of this type of A production has increased, the studio which he represents, Ealing, having five currently aimed at USA and Canadian de luxe houses. They are "San Demetrio-London," "They

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British Films Set For Free Europe

With 1,066 prints in seventeen languages either ready or in production, the British film industry stands ready to send its product into the liberated areas of Europe as soon as the fighting ceases. Of this number, 22 features and a large lineup of shorts depict

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RKO's Jap Collapse

RKO is looking ahead with a story titled "First Man in Tokyo" now in the scenario department.

Mexican Monogram

Monogram will make two films annually in Mexico under a deal recently negotiated by Jack Lamont, Company's rperesentative for Central America.

Exchange Union Asks Charter

Toronto film exchange workers applied for an A F of L union charter more than a month ago, it was revealed at a meeting held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, last week.

It is not yet known whether jurisdiction of the film exchange

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Found Canadian Product Comp'y

Motion picture studios will be established in several buildings of the Canadian National Exhibition, in military hands and closed to the public at present, by Hollywood Pictures Corporation of New York, of which Trans-Canada Pictures, Ltd., will

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Warners Offer 24 in 1944-45

Warner Bros. will release 24 feature film productions in Canada during the new season, it has been announced by Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner Bros. Pictures Distributing Company, Ltd. Four of these will be carryovers from the 1943-44 season and 20 will be labelled 1944-45, several of which will be specials. Productions will be categoried as first, second and third groups in accordance with their boxoffice value. Since exhibitors are entitled to buy as during the basic period the policy, though flexible, imposes nothing outside WPTB protection on the exhibitor.

Two of the specials will be "Arsenic and Old Lace," with Cary Grant, one of the season's most riotous comedies, and the

(Continued on Page 3)

20th Plans Large Toronto Theatre

Plans are being drawn up for the complete rebuilding into a modern theatre of the Regal on Danforth near Pape streets in Toronto, recently purchased by Vanguard Theatres, Ltd., of which S. Firestone is president and N. A. Taylor, secretary.

House will seat between 1,000 to 1,200 and will be operated by 20th Century Theatres. Location is one of the key suburban spots in Toronto.

Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner Bros. Pictures Distributing Company, Ltd. congratulates I. "Babe" Coval, Montreal branch manager, on taking first place in the separate Dominion contest of Warners' "Roundup" sales drive during the past season. Second place was won by Earl H. Galgleish, Vancouver; third by Sam Pearlman, Calgary.

The Merry Monahans Hits the very top in entertainment. It's a great vaudeville story featuring hit songs of yesteryear with a great cast,
Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan, Jack Oakie, Ann Blyth. Contact your EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL office for early dates.

British Films Set For Free Europe

(Continued from Page 1)

the British war effort and the way of life of the people under war conditions.

Stories have been selected for a series of shorts, now in preparation, that are especially slanted for the country where they will be shown. The series will be titled "The World Marches" and the shorts made in Albanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Magyar, Norwegian, Polish, Roumanian, Serbo-Croat and Slovene. The schedule includes shorts on health, education and industrial subjects.

A weekly newsreel, "The Free World," produced in London by the USA Office of War Information and the British Ministry of Information, is now being shown in Normandy and Italy and will probably soon go into Paris theatres. The Italian edition, dubbed in Rome, will shortly be edited, printed and distributed from the Italian capitol. This newsreel is issued in seventeen languages.

In North Africa British films have earned more money since the Allied landings than they took in from France in peacetime, according to a recent survey issued by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information. British distributors have the advantage in North Africa for they can withdraw their earnings while USA film funds cannot be taken out of the country, the survey also notes.

In Normandy and Italy, British features are distributed through regular theatres and mobile units supplied by the Ministry of Information.

Tom Baird, director of the Films Division, last week predicted the British Government will establish and maintain one central bureau to make information and educational films for all bureaus after the war. Such production will be confined to specialized or professional films as in the case of the Ministry of Information's "Psychiatry in Action," Baird stated.

Films produced either singly or in collaboration by the Office of War Information and the Ministry of Information are distributed through the Psychological Warfare Bureau.

Ask 'Fair Break' For GB Product

(Continued from Page 1)

Came to the City," "Champagne Charlie," "Fiddlers Three" and "The Return of the Viking."

Sir Edward was in Toronto last week to confer with Oscar Hanson, who distributes Ealing product in Canada through Esquire Films, and H. I. Allen, Esquire representative. He attended the Canadian premiere of "San Demetrio-London" at the Eglinton, Toronto, on August 31, which was sponsored by the Navy League.

He was interested in the future of British films in general and those of Ealing in particular, he said. Eighty per cent of Ealing's product this season is entertainment and twenty per cent is designed to make people think through excellent use of dramatic material. These latter films are not preachments, he explained, but emphasize democratic values of universal appeal. The British point of view towards parliamentary government and human rights has found a place throughout history in the hearts of people of all nations and the early willingness of that country to defend it has captured the imagination of the world today. Sir Edward sees no reason why the films of his own and other studios should not find an equal place with American films in the tastes of all people and on the screen of their theatres.

The film world has always been international, he suggests. Films of all countries will be exchanged in the future. With universal agreement as to the values they present, there is no reason, he feels, why the product of British, French and other film makers should not have the same appeal to Canada and the USA that Hollywood films have in Britain and elsewhere. "Live and let live," he said.

"I'm over here to find out what is causing the hitch in the acceptance of British films, which are in many cases not getting the break they deserve," he told the press. He agreed that British film producers had been backward in their publicity methods and that British stars were comparatively unknown. Some attempt would be forthcoming to establish British stars in the minds of Canadians and Americans. The star system would have to be used instead of ignored.

British studios, Sir Edward said, have performed a Herculean task in the last few years. In spite of the shortage of talent and equipment and the handicaps of production under bombing, they have shown such marked improvement as to provide the first real challenge to Hollywood.

Sir Edward represents Michael Balcon, recognized as a great director on every continent, and Major Baker. He is managing director of Ealing Studios' subsidiary, British and Overseas Film Sales. Ealing is the second largest studio in Great Britain.

Speaking of the trade situation in Great Britain, Sir Edward said that it was being hoped that government control would not be expanded beyond what is necessary to assure progressive procedure during these uncertain times. At the same time he realized that the British Government may have to intervene in Washington on behalf of fair treatment for Old Country product in the field of American distribution.

"We hope British films can find their own commercial level," he said, "and make that unnecessary."

Exchange Union Asks Charter

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workers will be in the hands of the A F of L direct or whether that organization will turn it over to the IATSE.

The meeting was addressed by William P. Covert, Canadian IATSE chief organizer, who voiced the willingness of his union to accept jurisdiction. Three regional A F of L officers also addressed the meeting.

If the exchange workers come under the IATSE banner they will receive moral and financial support. The IATSE, however, is bound by contract in its relations with the theatres and can take no strike action in support of any differences which may arise between exchange workers and their employers.

It is thought that projectionists can do many things to help the exchange workers if necessary.

Freund on Loan Short

Karl Freund, Academy Award winner, will handle the camera for the 7th Canadian Victory Loan short, "Tomorrow John Jones," now on MGM stages.

Found Canadian Product Comp'y

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be the directive force over production and distribution in the Dominion.

The announcement came through a news release by the publicity officer of the New York company, Ed Hurley.

James Cowan, director of Editorial Services, Ltd., a free-lance publicity and promotion outfit with offices in Toronto, will be in charge of Trans-Canada Pictures. Editorial Services has on occasion handled film buildups, one having been "49th Parallel." Jack Goldberg, well-known in Canada and an Independent producer, heads the New York company and Ira Simmons will represent him on the coast.

A deal is pending, says the announcement, with J. Arthur Rank to distribute the company's product in Great Britain.

The first production, to be started next month, will be "Sick River Heart," written by the late Lord Tweedsmuir, former Governor-General of Canada. As John Buchan he was a leading literary figure. His "39 Steps," directed by Alfred Hitchcock, was a famous hit.

Stock Overdraft Holds Back Negs

Because the USA motion picture industry overdrew some 55,000,000 feet of raw stock during the last six months, negatives from which Canadian prints are to be made have been delayed in their arrival of late. One-third fewer negatives are being turned out this quarter, the War Production Board insisting on the reduction to help make up the industry's overdraft.

Slowdown in delivery, however, will not upset Canadian release dates or bookings. Canada is usually four or five weeks behind USA playdates. In the past most negatives or prints arrived in the Dominion with plenty of time to spare and the present margin is still sufficient.

Because of the celluloid overdraft the major studios are trying to schedule the lowest possible amount of raw stock usage for the next quarter. The WPB wants the balance of overdrawn stock restored immediately.

The industry uses about 320,000,000 and is credited with 34,000,000 feet more for Army and Navy films. It has been proposed to cut the entertainment figure to 228,000,000 feet but the studios are trying to arrange a compromise at a slightly higher figure.

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Maritime Men Have Hobbies

Film exhibitors and distributors in the maritime provinces have their hobbies and side lines.

T. J. Courtney, manager of the Halifax Casino, is a skilled and active photographer, still and movie. R. A. Foster, manager of the Yarmouth, N.S. Community, is a radio and concert-smoker singer and often entertains the armed forces. A. J. Mason, owner-manager of the Springhill, N.S. Capitol, has been promoting amateur baseball as president of the Nova Scotia Amateur Baseball Association and has made a name for himself as angler, hunter and in game protection. As mayor of Springhill, Dominion Liberal nominee for Cumberland County and past defeated candidate for the provincial house he is well known in maritimes politics.

P. J. Dwyer, manager of the Halifax Family, has been collecting clothing for European war victims and is collecting and distributing smokes, candies, etc., for sailors, soldiers and airmen. J. M. Franklin, president of Franklin & Herschorn, Saint John, owns a farm about 15 miles east of the city. M. Franklin, his son, secretary of Franklin & Herschorn, has a bungalow about 23 miles east of the city where he does some logging, farming and commercial as well as sport fishing. Domiciled at this seashore haven are his wife and their new-born son.

F. G. Spencer, president of F. G. Spencer Company, Saint John, is experimenting in the growing of tropical fruits at his summer home property about 15 miles up the St. John river. His son, who is general manager of the Spencer firm, is keen on photography.

R. G. March, maritime manager of Twentieth Century-Fox and owner of the Strand, Sussex, N.B., is chairman of the Saint John Recreational Commission and is a specialist in organizing and leading mass sing-songs. He is also a curling enthusiast. E. A. Neal, manager of the Woodstock, N.B. Capitol, is mayor of that town. N. W. Mason, managing director of the Roseland and Academy, New Glasgow, N.B., has been producing, directing, managing and taking the top role in "The Old Homestead," on the stage at his and other Nova Scotia theatres and for the armed forces for the past forty years. He has also tried his hand at the promotion of hockey, boxing and baseball. He has served as alderman and mayor of his town.

F. Sobey, owner of the Roxy and Jubilee in Stellarton and Westville, adjoining soft coal mining towns, is mayor of Stellarton and a retail grocer. W. H. Golding, manager of the Saint John Capitol, is a member of the city council. W. R. Golding, his nephew, manager-lessee of the West St. John Community, is strong for bowling and also has been a promoter of amateur baseball and basketball.

G. M. Hoyt, manager of Empire-Universal at Saint John, goes for boating, canoeing and angling. P. J. Hogan, manager of Paramount in Saint John, is interested in the work of the boy scout movement. I. L. Haley, manager of the Dundas and Mayfair, Dartmouth, N.S., is talented in mechanics and inventing. He is organizer and head of a group visiting army, navy and air force stations and supplying music and female partners for the servicemen's dancing hours. G. O'Brien, part owner of the Capitol, Yarmouth, N.S., is a fruit and vegetable wholesaler.

J. W. Farr, owner of the Rivoli, North Sydney, N.S., is well-known for his stirring poetic war loan parodies. W. H. Cuzner, owner of the Strand, Sydney Mines, N.S., is a leader in civilian protection. M. E. Walker, owner of the Gaiety, Halifax, and the Imperial, Sackville, N.B., has been working for the cause of milk for British children.

A. I. Garson, Saint John, owner of the Garrick in Halifax and the Kent in Moncton, N.B., and majority owner of the Oxford, Halifax, has long been active in apartment house realty. D. MacDonald, owner of the Capitol and Vogue, Sydney, N.S., is a veteran of the mercantile field, chiefly footwear. A. E. Smith, manager of Regal's exchange in Saint John, goes in for angling.

F. M. Gregor, owner of the Majestic, New Waterford, N.S., is promoting a recreational centre for that town. J. H. Bustin, owner of the Imperial, Windsor, N.S., has been operating a restaurant and bowling alley there for years. E. W. Hatfield, manager of the Yarmouth, N.S. Capitol, is a fishing and hunting enthusiast.

Kids vs. Parents

Lionel Lester, Fox booker, overheard this interesting comment of a street car patron. It drew laughter.

"The kids," he observed, "are going to see 'Are These Our Parents?' and the parents are going for 'Where Are Your Children?'"

Warners Offer 24 in 1944-45

(Continued from Page 1)

super attraction, "Hollywood Canteen."

Warners will also offer six reissues of proved quality, "Manpower," "They Made Me a Criminal," "Brother Rat," "Walking Dead," "Tiger Shark," and "Polo Joe." The company expects to offer several others, among them "Angels With Dirty Faces."

In the shorts department there will be 100 four-reel subjects, 18 two-reelers and 64 single reel subjects. Of special interest is the fact that the short subjects include a special group of six filmed in Canada. These are in Technicolor and received much press publicity while in the making.

The first eight releases, in their probable order of release, are: "Janie" (Joyce Reynolds); "Arsenic and Old Lace" (Cary Grant, Raymond Massey, Jack Carson); "The Conspirators" (Hedy Lamarr, Paul Henreid); "The Very Thought of You" (Dennis Morgan, Eleanor Parker); "The Doughgirls" (Ann Sheridan, Alexis Smith, Jack Carson, Jane Wyman, Irene Manning); "Hollywood Canteen" (50 top stars); "Objective, Burma" (Errol Flynn); "To Have and Have Not" (Humphrey Bogart).

The new season's schedule will be drawn from Warner's basic product pool, consisting of 15 New York stage hits, 32 best-selling novels, biographies, autobiographies and 32 original stories as previously announced by Jack L. Warner, executive producer.

"Combining the best in entertainment with the ultimate in constructive citizenship will continue to be the Warner Bros. goal. We have the properties and we will expend the production resources to achieve that goal," Warner told a recent sales conference.

Forthcoming films based on stage hits are: "Janie," by Josephine Bentham and Herschel V. Williams, starring Joyce Reynolds; "Arsenic and Old Lace," directed by Frank Capra; "The Doughgirls," a comedy hit with Ann Sheridan, Alexis Smith, Jack Carson, Jane Wyman and Irene Manning; "The Animal Kingdom," starring Ann Sheridan, Dennis Morgan, Alexis Smith, Jack Carson and Jane Wyman.

Stage successes now before the cameras are: "The Corn Is Green," with Bette Davis; "Pillar to Post," starring Ida Lupino, Sydney Greenstreet and William Prince.

Stage properties in active preparation for early production include: "The Voice of the Turtle," "Junior Miss," "Broken Journey," which will star Alexis Smith and Joan Leslie; "Chicken Every Sunday."

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Lionel Atwill
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SEVEN DOORS TO DEATH
Chick Chandler
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Be sure to reserve room for Monogram pictures in your Line-up for the coming year.

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Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver.

★ Reviews ★

From Film Daily, New York

The Mask of Dimitrios

with Sydney Greenstreet, Zachary Scott, Peter Lorre

Warner 95 Mins.

CONFUSED AND COMPLICATED MELODRAMA HAS FORCE AND VIVIDNESS, PLUS PLENTY OF FINE ACTING.

How the public will accept "The Mask of Dimitrios" is open to speculation. The film has much of the good and the bad about it. Unfortunately, however, it hasn't the services of an important name cast to lull one into forgetting the production's faults.

The film possesses color, vividness and a sense of mystery. It has been given a first-rate production by Producer Henry Blanke and enjoys the services of a fine cast. The physical aspects are definitely worthy of note.

The picture makes quite a to-do over the odious career of its central character, a man who has been murderer, robber, smuggler and spy. The film jumps hither and yon in following the operations of Dimitrios. The scenes of the action are Istanbul, Athens, Sofia, Geneva and Paris.

The journey into Dimitrios' past results from the determination of a Dutch mystery writer to learn all he can about the villain, whose fantastic criminal career intrigues him. The writer follows every clue, his quest taking him to the strangest places and subjecting him to many surprising experiences, some of them fraught with danger. Much of the plot revolves about the question of whether Dimitrios is alive or dead. The answer comes when the villain shows up very much alive. At the finale he is dead for sure, shot by an enemy of his.

Zachary Scott plays Dimitrios; Sydney Greenstreet, the one who kills him; Peter Lorre, the writer. All are capital. Fine performances are forthcoming also from Victor Francen, Faye Emerson, Steven Geray, Edward Ciannelli and a number of others.

The screenplay of Frank Gruber, derived from a novel of Eric Ambler, has been directed forcefully by Jean Negulesco.

CAST: Sydney Greenstreet, Zachary Scott, Faye Emerson, Peter Lorre, Victor Francen, Steven Geray, Florence Bates, Edward Ciannelli, Kurt Katch, Marjorie Hoshelle, Georges Metaxa, John Abbott, Monte Blue, David Hoffman.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Home in Indiana

with Walter Brennan, Lon McCallister

20th-Fox 103 Mins.

REFRESHING TECHNICOLOR FILM RATED AS PERFECT FAMILY PICTURE; HEAVY TAKES INDICATED.

Exerting very much the same appeal that that other 20th-Fox film, "My Friend, Flicka," did, "Home in Indiana" represents a refreshing change from the everyday that ought to win an enthusiastic reception from grateful audiences everywhere. Patrons will find it difficult to remain unresponsive to the unaffected charm and utter simplicity with which this tale of trotting and trotting horses has been told. Lovers of horse flesh and harness racing will be ecstatic.

Skillfully the film weaves the story of a youth with a passionate love of horses who helps to rehabilitate his uncle as a trainer of trotters. The lad makes this possible by secretly mating a blind mare, the sole animal remaining to his uncle, and a champion stallion from the stables of the old man's mortal enemy. The film traces the development of the filly resulting from the mating into a champion trotter. A sad note is struck when the beloved animal, whose eyesight has been gradually failing, goes stone blind after winning the big race. The story brings two girls into the lad's life, the daughter of his uncle's enemy, and the daughter of the latter's trainer, with the second girl coming out the winner.

Lon McCallister, remembered as the shy, boyish soldier in "Stage Door Canteen," performs beautifully as the young hero of the film. Walter Brennan is fine as the uncle, while Jeanne Crain and June Haver are attractive and promising as the two girls in McCallister's life. Charlotte Greenwood, getting away from comedy for the nonce, is excellent as Brennan's wife. Mention also must be made of Charles Dingle as Brennan's enemy and Ward Bond as Dingle's trainer. Most of the lighter moments are provided by Willie Best.

CAST: Walter Brennan, Lon McCallister, Jeanne Crain, June Haver, Charlotte Greenwood, Ward Bond, Charles Dingle, Robert Condon, Charles Saggau, Willie Best, George Reed, Noble "Kid" Chissell, Walter Baldwin, George Cleveland, Arthur Aylesworth, Libby Taylor, Roger Imhof, Matt McHugh, Eddy Waller, Billy Mitchell, Tom Dugan, Sam McDaniel, Emmett Smith.

DIRECTION, Excellent. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Delinquent Daughters

with June Carlson, Fifi D'Orsay, Teala Loring

PRC 72 Mins.

GOOD EXPLOITATION OFFERING HIGHLIGHTED BY WORK OF A NEWCOMER.

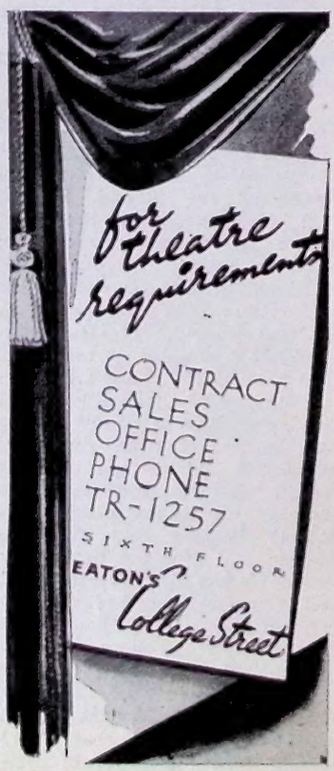
This is a good exploitation offering, highlighted by the work of screen newcomer Teala Loring and Jon Dawson, who are standouts in an excellent cast. Donald C. McKean and Albert Herman functioned as producers, with Herman directing.

Embittered because her parents have refused to let her marry her sweetheart, Teala Loring begins a line of crime. She becomes infatuated with Jon Dawson, a roadhouse operator, who heads a gang of high school students who pull off gas station robberies and holdups. Teala holds up an autoist and then joins Dawson, who has led a payroll robbery.

Arthur St. Claire wrote the original story and screenplay.

CAST: June Carlson, Fifi D'Orsay, Teala Loring, Mary Bovard, Marga Dean, Johnny Duncan, Joe Devlin, Jimmy Zaner, Don Dawson, Frank McGlynn, Parker Gee, Warren Mills, John Christian, Frank Stephens, Floyd Criswell, John Valentine, Belle Thomas, Sheila Roberts, Norval Mitchell, Juan De La Cruz, Sheilah Roddick.

DIRECTION, Splendid. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.



FROM THE HEART OF A LION...

An Anniversary is but a milestone that gives opportunity for brief pause on the way to even greater goals.

To M-G-M it represents an opportunity to express heartfelt gratitude to you our customers.

Your loyalty and faith have been the strong foundation upon which our mutual success has grown.

You will see in these following pages joyous recollection of past triumphs in which we shared, and brilliant productions waiting for you which have truly been twenty years in the making.

The bright future is ours together.

Twenty years

1924 THE BIG PARADE

1925 THE MERRY WIDOW

1926 FLESH AND THE DEVIL

1934 DINNER AT EIGHT

1935 MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

1936 SAN FRANCISCO

and

THE AWARD COMPANY
(A few of thousands shown here!)
M-G-M's countless distinguished honors have led the industry for twenty years—and still they come. 40% of all Academy Awards! All-time leader of Film Daily's Annual "Ten Best" poll! First in Blue Ribbon Awards by Boxoffice! In Fan magazines, in the trade press, exhibitors and public alike vote M-G-M the leader.
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"The Citadel"
Best Motion Picture of 1938

Twenty years

1924 THE BIG PARADE

1925 THE MERRY WIDOW

1926 FLESH AND THE DEVIL

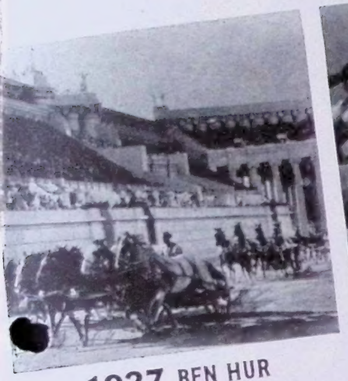
1934 DINNER AT EIGHT

1935 MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

1936 SAN FRANCISCO

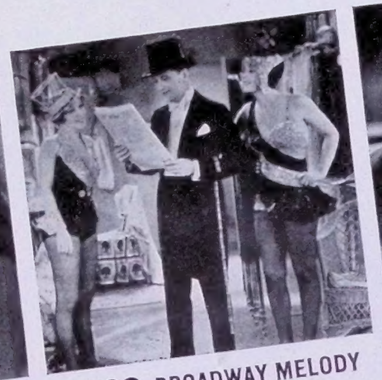
and

of MGM hits



1927 BEN HUR

1928 TELL IT TO THE MARINES



1929 BROADWAY MELODY

1930 MIN AND BILL

1931 TRADER HORN

1932 GRAND HOTEL

1933 TUGBOAT ANNIE

1941 HONKY TONK

1942 MRS. MINIVER

1943 RANDOM HARVEST

1937 THE GOOD EARTH

1938 BOYS TOWN

1939 THE WIZARD OF OZ

1940 BOOM TOWN

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IRENE DUNNE

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VAN JOHNSON • C. AUBREY SMITH

DAME MAY WHITTY • GLADYS COOPER

Directed by CLARENCE BROWN • Produced by SIDNEY FRANKLIN

Screen Play by Claudine West, Jan Lustig and George Froeschel

Based on the Poem "The White Cliffs" by Alice Duer Miller